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Dated: March 8, 2004

(Diane Blevins)

Docket No.: 577212000101 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Christopher J. Stanley

Application No.: 09/760,819

Filed: January 17, 2001

For: USE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS BOUND TO

CARRIER MACROMOLECULES

Art Unit: 1634

Examiner: F.W. M. Lu

3/24/2004
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to a Final Office Action herein mailed January 7, 2004, a shortened time for response to which was set to expire March 7, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. All pending claims 1 and 3-22 remain rejected. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

03/12/2004 MGEBREM1 00000166 031952 09760819

01 FC:1201

172.00 DA

02 FC:1202

18.00 DA 290.00 DA

03 FC:1203